

CUP 21 9.29/15

7

QUERIES proposed to the NOBILITY, GENTRY, and CLERGY, of LEICESTERSHIRE; with a view of more accurately completing, from their Answers, the ANTIQUITIES and NATURAL HISTORY of the several Parishes in that County.

1. ~~WHAT~~ **W**HAT is the antient and modern name of the parish in which you reside? and what do you suppose to be its etymology?
2. ~~What is its distance from LEICESTER, or from the nearest market-town?~~
3. What is the extent of the parish; and by what parishes is it bounded, East, West, North, and South? and what are its length and breadth?
4. What number of hamlets, villages, townships, chapelries, &c. are in it? their names and situation; and to what division, hundred, liberty, belonging?
5. ~~What are the number of its houses and inhabitants of every kind, and of its teams?~~ list of freeholds and copyholds, and their holders?
6. What number of persons have been married, christened, and buried, for the space of 20 years past, compared with the first 20 years of the register? When did the register begin? Are any curious entries or remarks made therein?
7. What manors are or were in the parish, and who are or were lords thereof?
8. What are the names and qualities, arms and descent, of their proprietors?
9. Are there any particular customs or privileges, or remarkable tenures, in any of the manors in the parish? What courts, and their peculiar customs? What exempt jurisdictions, civil or ecclesiastical?
10. What castle, fort, ancient manor or mansion-house, seat, villa, or other remarkable buildings, are or have been in the parish? and the dimensions of their largest apartment or galleries?
11. What coats of arms, inscriptions, dates, or other ornaments and figures, are or were carved or painted in and about any of their buildings?
12. In what manor, deanry, and hundred, does the CHURCH stand?
13. Is it dedicated to any Saint? when and by whom it was built, of what materials? and has it a tower or spire?
14. What are its dimensions, number of ailes, chapels, and bells?
15. Are the font, altar-piece, or plate, ancient, or any way remarkable?
16. What chantries, altars, shrines, lights, images, gilds, or roods, appear to have been in the church; or what privileges or indulgencies annexed to it?
17. Are there any painted figures, arms, or inscriptions, in the windows? Is there any parochial library in the church or parsonage?
18. Are there any ancient or modern monuments, grave-stones, or brass plates? and what inscriptions and arms in the church, chancel, or steeple, or on the bells, plate, chests, pews, screens, &c. or in the church-yard? The communication of copies of any such monumental or other inscriptions is particularly requested.
19. Are there any tables of benefactions, or other inscriptions, which are worthy of notice, painted or carved in or about the church, within or without? These are also requested to be communicated.
20. Are there any vaults or burial-places peculiar to any ancient or other families? and what extraordinary interments or preservation of bodies?
21. Is the living a rectory, vicarage, donative, or sinecure?
22. Are the computed worth of the living and its rate in the King's books rightly stated in Bacon's lately published "Liber Regis," or in "Ecton's Thesaurus?"
23. Who

23. Who are, or who have formerly been, patrons?

25. Who are, or have been, incumbents, as far back as you can trace by the parish-registers or otherwise? and were any of them remarkable for their writings, sufferings, or other particulars? of what university or college, what their degrees or preferments? and where buried, and their epitaphs?

25. Are there any lands belonging to the glebe or vicarage, or any copy of the endowment, or any terrier? Has it been augmented by Queen Anne's bounty? What are the first-fruits, tenths, synodals, procurations, pensions, &c.

26. Who is possessed of the great tithes? what may their reputed value be? and is any modus paid thereout, and to whom?

27. Is there any chapel of ease in the parish; how is it supported? and who are, or have been, incumbents? and of what value may the cure be supposed?

28. What charities or benefactions belong to the parish? when and by whom given? how improved, or how lost? What was the return lately made to Parliament?

29. Are there any Dissenting or other meeting-houses, or Popish-chapels? and what number of each persuasion may be in the parish?

30. Are there any colleges, alms-houses, free or other school, or hospital? by whom and when founded, for how many objects, and what is the present state?

31. Have there been any abbeys, priories, friaries, nunneries, hermitages, sanctuaries, or other religious houses; or are there any remains or ruins of them? by whom founded, and to whom granted? what charters, cartularies, ledger-books, rentals, statutes, deeds, wills, obituaries, bede-rolls, or other writings, seals, habits, shrines, or other fragments, belonging to any church, monastery, chantry, gild, hospital, school, or other charity?—Speed mentions *Stane* and *Werwereden* as Benedictine monasteries in Leicestershire. Q. where were those houses situated?

32. Are there any crosses or obelisks, inscribed or carved stones, circles of rude stones, single stones on hillocks, or otherwise, hollows wrought on rocks, single stones placed horizontally or over one another, or any beacons, in the parish?

33. Are there any barrows or tumuli, or extraordinary mounds? have any been opened, and what have been found therein?

34. Are there any *Roman*, *Saxon*, or *Danish* castles, forts, camps, roads, ditches, banks, pits, or other extraordinary earth-works, or pieces of antiquity, remaining in your parish; and what traditions or historical accounts are there of them?

35. Have there been any vaults, pavements, urns, pieces of pottery, lamps, weapons, armour, seals, rings, buckles, odd pieces of metal, statues, busts, carvings, altars, images, coins, or other pieces of antiquity, *Roman*, *Saxon*, *Danish*, or other, or bones of extraordinary size, dug up in your parish; when and by whom; and in whose custody are or were they?

36. Have there been any remarkable battles fought? on what spot, by whom, when, and what traditions are there relating thereto? Or what the sufferings or adventures of the clergy or gentry in the civil wars?

Have any councils, synods, parliaments, or other meetings, civil or religious, been held in it?

38. Have you any wake, Whitsun ale, doles, or other such customs, used in the parish; or are any annual or other processions or perambulations?

39. What

- 9
- + 39. What markets or fairs are kept in the parish? what commodities are chiefly brought for sale? are they the manufactures or produce of the country, live cattle, or other things? what toll is paid, and to whom?
 - + 40. Is there any statute-fair for hiring of servants, and how long has it been established? What are the usual wages for men and maid-servants, &c. for each branch of husbandry?
 - + 41. Are there any manufactures carried on in the parish, and what number of hands are employed? What rare pieces of art have been invented or made by any of the parishioners?
 - + 42. What is generally a day's wages for labourers in husbandry and other work; and what for carpenters, bricklayers, masons, or other mechanicks, &c.?
 - + 43. What are, or have been, the prices of provisions, beef, veal, mutton, lamb, pork, pigs, geese, ducks, chicken, rabbits, butter, cheese, &c.?
 - + 44. What is the annual rent or value of the lands or houses in the parish, or township? what is the poors-rate in the pound *communibus annis*?
 - + 45. What common, or quantity of waste land, may be in the parish?
 - + 46. Are there are forests, chaces, parks, or warrens; of what extent, number of deer, &c.? any heronries, decoys, or fisheries; and to whom belonging?
 - + 47. What is the usual fuel? is it coal, wood, heath, furze, turf, or peat? and the prices paid on the spot?
 - + 48. Is there any great road leading through the parish, and from noted places?
 - + 49. Do any rivers, or brooks, or navigable canals, rise in or run through the parish? and when and on what terms were the acts for making them navigable obtained?
 - + 50. What bridges, when and by whom built, of what materials, what number of piers or arches, the length and breadth of the bridge, and width of the arches? are they supported by private or public cost?
 - + 51. Has the parish given birth or burial to any man eminent for learning, or other remarkable or valuable qualifications?
 - + 52. What particular games, sports, customs, proverbs, or peculiar words or phrases, or names of places, persons, animals, vegetables, or things, are used; and what notions or traditions obtain among the common people?
 - + 53. Are there, in any of the gentlemen's or other houses, any pictures which give insight into any historical facts, or any portraits of men eminent in art, science, or literature; any statues, bustos, or other memorial, which will give any light to past transactions; or what manuscripts in any language, books of arms, pedigrees, lives, signatures, patents, diplomas, perambulations, surveys, plans, pictures, or drawings, of any persons, buildings, or views, relating to the parish, in the possession of any person in the parish, or their acquaintance?
 - + 54. What is the appearance of the country in the parish? is it flat or hilly, rocky, or mountainous, open or inclosed; and the terms and mode of modern inclosing? in what year was the inclosure made, and how many acres?
 - + 55. Do the lands consist of woods, arable, pasture, meadow, heath, or what?
 - + 56. Are they fenny or moorish, boggy or firm, fertile or barren?
 - + 57. Is there sand, clay, chalk, stone, gravel, loam, or what is the nature of the soil?
 - + 58. What petrifications or fossils are found in the parish, and in what strata?

59. Are there any mines? to whom do they belong, and what do they produce?
60. Are there any mineral springs, frequented or not; at what seasons of the year reckoned best, and what distempers are they frequented for? What are their qualities, virtues, weight, and analysis; and what cures attested or wrought by them?
61. Are there any hot waters or wells for bathing, and for what distempers frequented? any wells or streams formerly accounted holy?
62. Are there any lakes, meers, pools, or water-falls; what their depth and height; where do they rise, and whither do they run?
63. What is the proportion of arable, and meadow or pasture?
64. What are the chief produce of the lands, and in what proportion?
65. What is the general price paid for lands, arable, meadow, pasture, &c.? What sort of manure is chiefly used for the land, and what is the price of it on the spot? What are the methods of tillage; what sort of ploughs and other instruments of husbandry are used? or have any new modes of cultivation been introduced?
66. What trees thrive best, or are most common? What plants, shrubs, grains, mosses, grasses, trees, fruits, flowers, are peculiar, or most common?
67. Is the parish remarkable for breeding any cattle of remarkable qualities, colour, size, value, or number, and how sold? with other general observations.
68. What quantities of sheep are raised or fed; and what is their chief food?
69. What is the nature of the air? is it moist or dry, clear or foggy; healthy, or subject to produce agues, fevers, or other disorders? and at what time is it reckoned most so, and by what probable cause?
70. What are the kinds of birds, insects, or reptiles, common or rare?
71. What sorts of fish do the rivers produce, what quantities, what are their prices on the spot, and in what seasons are they best?
72. What strange accidents, wonderful events, or extraordinary diseases and cures, have happened; or uncommon deaths, discoveries of murder, or apparitions; what legends and traditions obtain about them, or what their attestation?
73. Hath there been any remarkable mischief done by thunder and lightning, storms, whirlwinds, or earthquakes? Or any remarkable phænomena or meteors?
74. To these Queries, as applied to the Town of LEICESTER, any farther information will be useful, respecting its ancient or modern history, foundations, streets, buildings, walls, gates, churches, wards, parishes, charters, privileges, immunities, companies, gilds, government, trade, manufactures, sieges, accidents by fire or otherwise; with lists of the representatives in parliament for the town and county, mayors, recorders, town-clerks, and other public officers; and, as far as any of these particulars are applicable to the other market-towns, or to any of the larger villages in the county, the same information is also requested.
- * * * The object in proposing the above Queries is, to obtain, wherever it is possible, the fullest information towards completing "The History and Antiquities of the County of LEICESTER." It is therefore hoped, that Gentlemen will communicate such particulars as may occur to them, on all or any part of the heads here specified; and their favours shall be thankfully acknowledged, if addressed to J. NICHOLS, either at *Cicero's Head, Red-Lion-Passage, Fleet-Street*; Mr. J. GREEN's, *Hinckley*; or Mr. THROSBY's Coffee-Room in *Leicester*.